



THE CITY OF WHITTIER

Gateway to Western Prince William Sound

P.O. Box 608 • Whittier, Alaska 99693 • (907) 472-2327 • Fax (907) 472-2404

PLANNING COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Homeowner's Lounge, BTI

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Charlene Arneson called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

2. OPENING CEREMONY

Charlene Arneson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Commission members present and establishing a quorum:

Charlene Arneson	Seat A	Present
Terry Bender	Seat B	Present
Ed Hedges	Seat C	Present
Walter Finke	Seat D	Present
Dyanna Pratt	Seat E	Absent

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Thomas K. Bolen, City Manager
Jennifer Rogers, Deputy City Clerk

PUBLIC PRESENT

David Goldstein

MOTION: Walter Finke made a motion to excuse Dyanna Pratt from today's meeting.

SECOND: Ed Hedges seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION: None

4. APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Walter Finke made a motion to approve the September 10, 2013 regular Meeting Agenda.

SECOND: Terry Bender seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously

DISCUSSION: None

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Walter Finke made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of August 13, 2013 as is.

SECOND: Terry Bender seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously

DISCUSSION: None

6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

City Manager, Thomas Bolen, began his report by bringing to the Council's attention that there are a couple of maps in the Comprehensive Plan were not accurate, in regards to land ownership. Charlene stated that the City was granted 500 acres and former city manager, Carrie Williams, titled the acres. Tom was not aware of this and replied that he would have to locate the paperwork. Charlene verified that the maps are accurate and further stated that the maps are in conjunction with the railroad and put together from the first Comprehensive Plan.

Tom also introduced his proposal to use State of Alaska, Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development Grant funds from grant #DC-032-Railroad Station Improvements, to design and construct enhancements at the south end of the rail yard pedestrian tunnel. The project will be called, "Whittier Historic Railroad Plaza." and will feature pedestrian travel improvements as well as displays of historical significance. A professional landscape architect will be employed to develop the design.

The work will be contracted by competitive bid. The plaza will include landscaping and pedestrian amenities such as trash receptacles, signage, benches, and stairs. Relocation/re-construction of the historic Alaska Railroad monument on the plaza area adjacent to the stairs is planned. This monument is said to be the oldest historic monument in Alaska. If sufficient grant funds allow, the City would like to commission a bronze statue of Anton Anderson, with accompanying bronze historic plaque to commemorate the historic significance of Anton Anderson.

Charlene stated that she will support this project one hundred percent.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Tank Farm

Tabled

B. Land Trades with ARR

Nothing new to report

C. Review of Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Nothing new to report

D. Smitty's Cove Park

Nothing new to report

E. Zoning- Head of Passage Canal

Covered in City Manager's Report

F. Review of Tideland Zoning

Tabled

G. Signage for Anton Anderson Tunnel Traffic Staging Area

Nothing new to report

H. Recommendation Projects for Commercial Vessel Passenger Fund Projects

Council has already budgeted a fair amount of funds for specific projects. Tom stated that he was hoping that additional restrooms would have been available this past summer, but we should be receiving them sometime during the winter and they will be in place for next summer. Scott Korbe will purchase items during the winter. Tom stated that we don't have a way to go forward with the Visitor Center idea.

Tom said that he would like to drill a second well at the top of the valley then tie in those wells into a water line into the main system so we can vacate the property on Whittier Street. Charlene suggested that asphalt be placed within ten feet of the wells to prevent any contaminants from entering. Tom stated that the object of doing that scope of work was to open up that surrounding land. Charlene added that we have the equipment in place should it become necessary to add chlorine to the water.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Ed Hedges submitted a Declaration of Interest form to renew his term with the Planning & Zoning. Walter Finke has decided not to renew his term. Charlene thanked Walter for his service. The City Council will meet in October and appoint members.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Goldstein asked for clarification on the wells. He stated that he thought the wells were grandfathered in, which meant that we wouldn't have to add chlorine or any chemicals in it. He also said that it was his understanding that if the wells were moved then it would all change and would have to be brought up to a different standard.

Next, David Goldstein brought up the tidelands. He recalled that during a City Council meeting some time ago, Prince William Sound Cruises and Tours came and asked for a Tideland permit renewal. He stated that it seems to him that the City is the owner of the tidelands. Charlene replied that the City owns all tidelands. There are others that are State owned and some are Federal. But according to Title 29, the City has the right to zone anything that is in their boundary. We can then issue permits to those who request it. Under the Coastal

Zone Management, land that is not owned by the railroad needs to have a 25 ft. setback access to the public.

Lastly, Dave questioned whether or not we are approaching the time frame to use the grant to the 600 acres of land at Shotgun Cove Road from the State. Charlene replied that we must be within a year of the extension expiring, but feels we can get another extension. Tom suggested that we place this topic on the next agenda for follow up.

10. COMMISSION COMMENTS:

None

MOTION: Walter Finke made a motion to have the City Manager report his findings on the Shotgun Cove land at the meeting.

SECOND: Terry Bender seconded the motion.

VOTE: Unanimous

11. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Whittier Historic Railroad Plaza Project
2. Shotgun Cove Land

11. NEXT MEETING ATTENDANCE PLANS: November 12, 2013 @ 7:00 pm

MOTION: Ed Hedges made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND: Terry Bender seconded the motion.

VOTE: Unanimous

13. ADJOURNMENT: Charlene Arneson adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.

ATTEST:

Jennifer Rogers
Deputy City Clerk

Charlene Arneson
Commission Chairperson